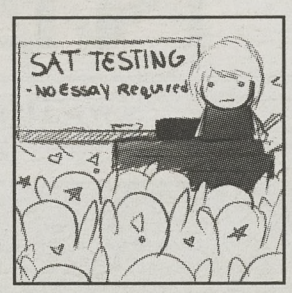
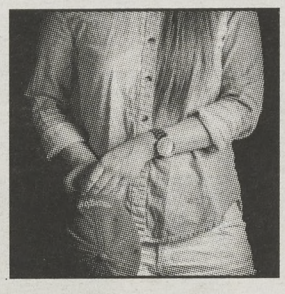
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CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH



SAT ESSAY
Removing the writing portion of SAT's is a bad move
OPINIONS, PAGE 4



"NORMCORE"
A new fashion trend pairs casual vintage with designer clothing
DIVERSIONS, PAGE 6

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Vol. LIX, Issue 706 www.Daily49er.com Tuesday, March 11, 2014

Sailing Team raising funds to compete in Hawaii

The team has competed in Hawaii, China and the East Coast.

By Kaila Campbell
Staff Writer

Cal State Long Beach's sailing team plans to cruise their way into a first-place finish at their upcoming competition in Hawaii.

The University of Hawaii at Oahu will be hosting the Pacific Coast Collegiate Sailing Conference Coed Championship from April 26 to 27, marking the second time the sailing team will compete in Hawaii.

Five team members are planning to travel to the two-day competition.

Since the competition will take place in the middle of the semester, Team Captain Mark Ryan said that he and teammates John Hill, Anna Rubino, Nicholas Santos and Tyler Web only plan to spend four days there.

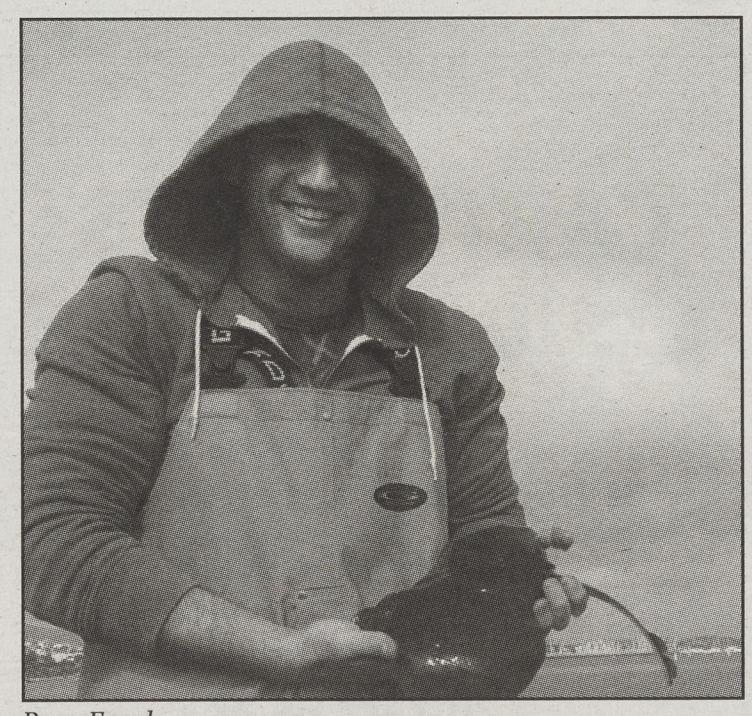
The sailing team was resurrected in 2010, after more than a 20-year hiatus, by CSULB alumni and brothers Chase and Shane Young, who have been sailing since they were children.

See *Sailing*, Page 2



Courtesy of Mark Ryan

The CSULB sailing team competes in the LA Harbor Cup Regatta at the Los Angeles Yacht Club in the port of LA on Saturday.



Ryan Freedman

CSULB graduate student earns grant to conduct research in Channel Islands

Ryan Freedman will study the risk of whale and ship collisions.

By Paula Esparza
Staff Writer

Graduate student Ryan Freedman's passion for marine biology is taking him to Santa Barbara to conduct research under the 2014 California Sea Grant Fellowship for the next year.

Freedman will conduct his research at the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, where he will work with scientists to investigate different topics, such as the risk of whale and ship collisions around the Channel Islands, he said.

"I'm really excited … it's an amazing opportunity to come to Channel Islands," Freedman said.

> **"Practically every agency wanted Ryan [Freedman]."**
> *— Christopher Lowe, marine biology professor*

Freedman's research is being funded by a $3,450 monthly allowance he will receive as one of 16 students to be awarded the 2014 California Sea Grant Fellowship, which offers a "unique educational opportunity for graduate students who are interested in marine resources and the policy decisions affecting those resources in California," according to the CSFG website.

Christopher Lowe, a CSULB marine biology professor who has studied fish migration with Freedman for two years, said Freedman's knowledge and skill with marine tracking devices brought forth new information about marine life.

In summer 2011, Freedman began working with Lowe, who has been studying the movements of juvenile sharks in Southern California.

See *Fellowship*, Page 2

FORCE to bring back student performances of 'Vagina Monologues'

The event is inspired by Eve Ensler, writer of "The Vagina Monologues."

By Stephanie Romero
Staff Writer

Citing popular demand, Feminist Organization Reclaiming Consciousness and Equality is bringing "The Vagina Monologues" back to campus a little sooner this year than in years past.

The event, which is usually held in late March or early April, will be held in the Beach Auditorium Friday, said Lauren MacIntyre, president of FORCE, an organization that seeks to create dialogue and raise awareness about feminism.

"We wanted to bring it back sooner because of the good feedback from students and faculty," MacIntyre said.

The CSULB Vagina Monologues event was derived from the Off-Broadway play, written by American playwright, performer and activist Eve Ensler in 1996, she said.

"It's a great example of what it means to be a woman in ways a lot of people will probably never hear," MacIntyre said. "The monologues consist of different identities, different age groups and women. It talks about women's sexuality in a very profound way."

In order to participate, students had to audition on Feb. 25 for a spot in the performance, Macintyre said.

"Most participants who participat-

See *FORCE*, Page 2

Sailing

Continued from Page 1

"We have travelled a lot for only being back four years," Ryan said. "We have been to the east coast three times [as well as] China and Hawaii before."

With very limited funding and no formal coaching, the team organizes its own practices and raises the majority of funds to travel to competitions, Ryan said.

"Everyone has a voice and we share sailing tips, tricks, strategy and tactics with each other," Ryan said. "The goal is to build everyone's sailing skills up together."

In July, the sailing team travelled to China to compete against 20 collegiate teams from China, Taiwan and Singapore, where they swept the competition and won all seven races they competed in.

In Hawaii, they will compete against teams in the PCCSC, including UC Santa Barbara, Southern California, San Diego State and Stanford, Ryan said.

He said the team will be competing in a traditional boat college teams sail in during competitions, which is a CFJ. The boat is sailed by two people, the skipper and a crewmember, he said.

The team held a restaurant fundraiser at California Pizza Kitchen last month and plans on raising more money from a Chipotle fundraiser, a car wash and a letter writing campaign to sailing team alumni and the local sailing community.



Courtesy of Mark Ryan

Senior construction engineering management major Michael Colavita, left, and junior finance major Nicholas Santos, adjust sails during the LA Harbor Cup Regatta on Saturday.

They need to raise $5,000 to travel to Hawaii, team treasurer Nicholas Santos said. To date, Ryan said, they've raised $1,300, which is about a quarter of the funding they need.

"[The money raised] will cover travel and the rooms for the trip," Santos said.

Students interested in joining or supporting the team can visit the CSULB Sailing Team page on Facebook.

The team meets from 1 to 4 p.m. every Monday, Wednesday and Friday on Naples Island, adjacent to the Boy Scout's Base.

"Everyone is welcome to learn how to sail, that is how most of the team learned," Ryan said. "We're a really relaxed small group that like to escape the classroom, homework grind and the city streets, and enjoy having some fun in the sun."

Fellowship

Continued from Page 1

"The most impressive thing is that practically every agency wanted Ryan [Freedman]," Lowe said. "[But] he had to choose which one he wanted to go to."

In his field of work, Freedman said he would spend hours out in the ocean trying to drive fish away from their estuary to a new location about eight miles down the Pacific Coast Highway.

Freedman said he and Lowe would place acoustic transmitters on fish and sharks to keep track of whether or not the fish would return to their original habitat.

Lowe said they were the first to use these research methods, which required them to spend "thousands of hours" collecting and inputting new data about marine life. This contribution to marine biology has helped Freedman establish himself as a well-regarded scientist, Lowe said.

Lowe recruited Freedman, who earned a bachelor's degree in marine science and biology at the University of Miami because he had extensive experience using Geographical Information Systems, a system designed to capture, manipulate and analyze geographical data.

In the future, Freedman said he hopes to land a job working with a Department of Natural Resources to help him learn important policy-making skills that will help him pursue his dream job.

"Ever since I was little this is what I wanted to do," Freedman said. "I worked hard for it."

FORCE

Continued from Page 1

last year will participate this year," MacIntyre said. "We were nervous about the turnout [but] we filled up every monologue ... it was very surprising because it was a last-minute thing."

Senior mechanical engineering major Leo Baranda said he didn't know such events took place on campus.

"I didn't know we had one on campus ... I would go, but it all depends on my schedule and stuff," Baranda said. "It's a good way for those who aren't used to expressing themselves through spoken word; they can get out and express their beliefs through that."

Senior political science and criminal justice major Mara Fericiano said although she appreciates the purpose of the event, it's not something she is interested in.

"I feel like it's a great celebration for women, but personally I wouldn't attend [because of] my beliefs and the way I was raised," Fericiano said. "Its kind of crass, but good for them and celebrating being a woman. Go feminism."

Senior journalism major Benjamin Balana said he hasn't attended a Vagina Monologues performance before, but its name caught his interest.

"The title of the event catches my attention enough that I would want to check it out," he said. "It's intriguing."

Tickets can be purchased in front of the University Library today from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. for $5 and from the Women's Resource Center located in the Liberal Arts building 1, Room 102 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. tomorrow.

A limited number of tickets will be available at the door for $7 each.

"It's an event that always sells out," MacIntyre said. "We're anticipating it to be a successful event."

Assistant News Editor Priscella Vega and Staff Writer Neil Bedolla contributed to this report.

CORRECTION

In yesterday's "Pow Wow" story, Shiigo Yellowhorse should have been referred to as "he" on first reference.

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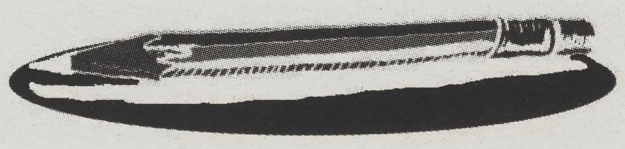
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Edward Snowden tells tech-savy crowd: Be Internet 'firefighters'

AUSTIN — Fugitive secrets-leaker Edward Snowden made a rare video appearance Monday at the South by Southwest Interactive Festival in Austin, Texas, condemning mass government surveillance and urging members of the tech-savvy audience to take action against it.

Speaking from Russia, where he was granted asylum, the former National Security Agency contractor said "absolutely, yes" he would leak secret government information again. Snowden has been charged with espionage for releasing a trove of intelligence-gathering secrets.

In an hour-long talk he said that the U.S. government's mass surveillance failed to catch the Boston Marathon bombers and warned that governments have created an adversarial climate on the Internet.

"They're setting fire to the global Internet, and you guys in the room are the global firefighters," Snowden said.

Snowden appeared against a backdrop of the U.S. Constitution with "We the people" written in large letters. The video feed was broadcast on a large screen before several thousand credentialed festival attendees in two conference halls and streamed live online.



MCT

NSA leaker Edward Snowden speaks to an audience via Google Hangout at South by Southwest Monday.

Moderating the discussion in Austin were Snowden's American Civil Liberties Union attorney, Ben Wizner and Christopher Soghoian, principal technologist with the American Civil Liberties Union's Speech, Privacy and Technology Project.

Snowden took questions from moderators and those relayed from spectators in the United States and overseas through tweets to #asksnowden.

The first question came from Timothy John Berners-Lee, a British scientist known as the inventor of the World Wide Web, who asked Snowden how he would create an accountability system for governance.

"We have an oversight model that could work. The problem is when the overseers are not interested in oversight," Snowden said. "The key factor is accountability."

"We need public advocates, public representatives, public oversight," he said, including "a watchdog that watches Congress."

He believed the lack of accountability will have international consequences.

"If we allow the NSA to continue unrestrained, every other government will accept that as a green light to do the same," he said.

Soghoian praised Snowden for leaking evidence of government surveillance of private communications and holding the companies who were complicit accountable.

"We have Ed to thank for that," he said, to loud applause.

Snowden said he was not against businesses such as Facebook and Google collecting data responsibly.

"You should only collect the data and hold it as long as necessary for the nature of the business," he said.

He said he had no regrets about leaking classified information.

"I took an oath to support and defend the Constitution," Snowden said. "The interpretation of the Constitution had been changed in secret from no unreasonable search and seizure to any seizure is fine."

Because of his leaks, he said, "we're going to have a better civic interaction as a result of understanding what's being done in our name."

Wizner noted during Snowden's appearance that Rep. Mike Pompeo, R-Kan., wrote to organizers beforehand urging them to cancel the event, saying that "the ACLU would surely concede that freedom of expression for Mr. Snowden has declined since he left American soil."

"If there's one person for whom that is not true, it's Ed Snowden," Wizner said.

Snowden has kept a low profile of late — he faces felony charges of espionage and theft of government property and has said he won't return until the United States changes its whistle-blower-protection laws.

U.S. Attorney General Eric H. Holder has taken a strong stand against granting amnesty to Snowden, saying he caused harm to national security and should be held accountable for his actions. Holder has described him as a defendant, not a whistle-blower.

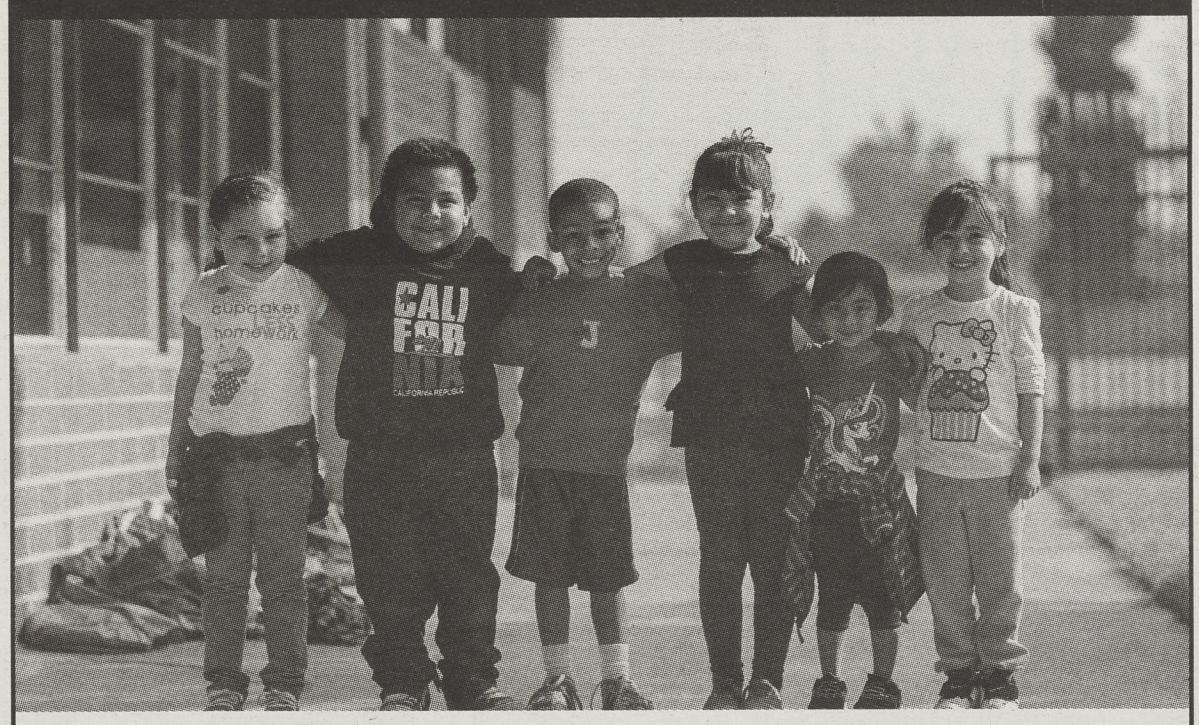
Barton Gellman, a Washington Post reporter who has worked with Snowden, released a video of his own ahead of Snowden's Monday appearance. He said Snowden wanted to speak with "the people who are building and creating the next generation of the Internet" because "technologists" are "a group he wants to influence."

"He's looking for places where there can be reform" to "practices that he regards as overbroad and overly-intrusive," Gellman said.

The annual South by Southwest Festival, or SXSW, draws tens of thousands of people to Austin, with privacy and government surveillance a focus for the tech crowd's five-day gathering this year.

—Molly Hennessy-Fiske, Los Angeles Times

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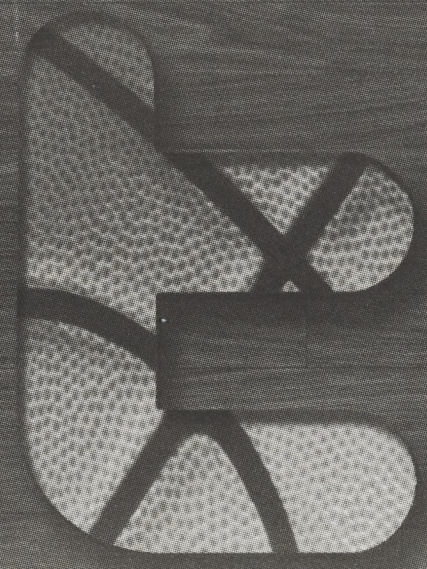
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OUR VIEW: SAT ESSAYS SHOULD BE REQUIRED



We have all heard the tales of our grandparents, or our parents, or our neighbors, etc. that go something like this: "When I was in school, I had to walk 20 miles in the rain or the snow just to get to class, you have it easy."

Well, it looks like our generation will be telling our own version of that story much sooner than expected, as college entrance exams for high school juniors and seniors are about to become much easier.

The last few years of high school are pressure-filled and the ominous SAT college entrance exam only adds to the stress. The SAT was introduced in 1926, and eventually evolved into a test scored out of 1600 points with two basic components.

By 2005, the test had grown into a 2400-point, three-part exam.

The additional element of the SAT was a timed essay worth 800 points, or one-third of the score. Students were kept in the dark about the prompt prior to the exam, increasing the test-taking anxiety for many.

It looks like the tables are about to turn, though, and relief is coming for those who sign up to take the exam in 2016. Recently, the College Board released an eight-piece overhaul of the exam with major revisions, leaving us more than concerned.

One big change making headlines is an adjustment to the essay component, which will now be optional for students.

That's right, if a student just doesn't feel like it, he or she doesn't have to write an essay for a college admissions test.

Furthermore, the essay prompt will now be released ahead of time, which may compromise the quality of the test itself.

If students know the essay topic ahead of time, what is to stop the test-takers from preparing an entire essay before the test?

While we understand the essay is difficult, we think simplifying the essay only contributes to the "teach-to-the-test" mentality that compromises the long-term benefits of more well-rounded learning.

We also think that making the essay optional does not help students prepare for college-level courses. Essays are a cornerstone of a college education, and universities expect incoming students to have basic essay-writing skills.

Unlike the new SAT, students can't simply opt out of a timed essay in class. They are required to write it, without knowing the topic ahead of time, so why not test them on their ability to do so prior to admission?

Removing the essay portion of the SAT sends the message that a student doesn't really need to know how to accomplish this kind of task.

We feel that in a society so consumed by the ease of technology, an old-fashioned writing test holds students to a basic communication standard. It only requires a simple timed response but provides huge benefits in terms of college and professional preparation.

The SAT will now return to a 1600-maximum score, with the essay component scored separately from the math and critical reading sections.

Some colleges and universities, however, will still require students to submit SAT essay scores, according to the College Board website.

This means that students will have to know beforehand which colleges they are applying to and the application requirements of those schools, otherwise they run the risk of opting out of the essay only to find that their school of choice require it.

We think it is better to be safe than sorry, and we encourage students to go ahead and at least try the essay to avoid this kind of mishap.

Additionally, if universities are still requiring an essay score despite the changes, why write it off in the first place?

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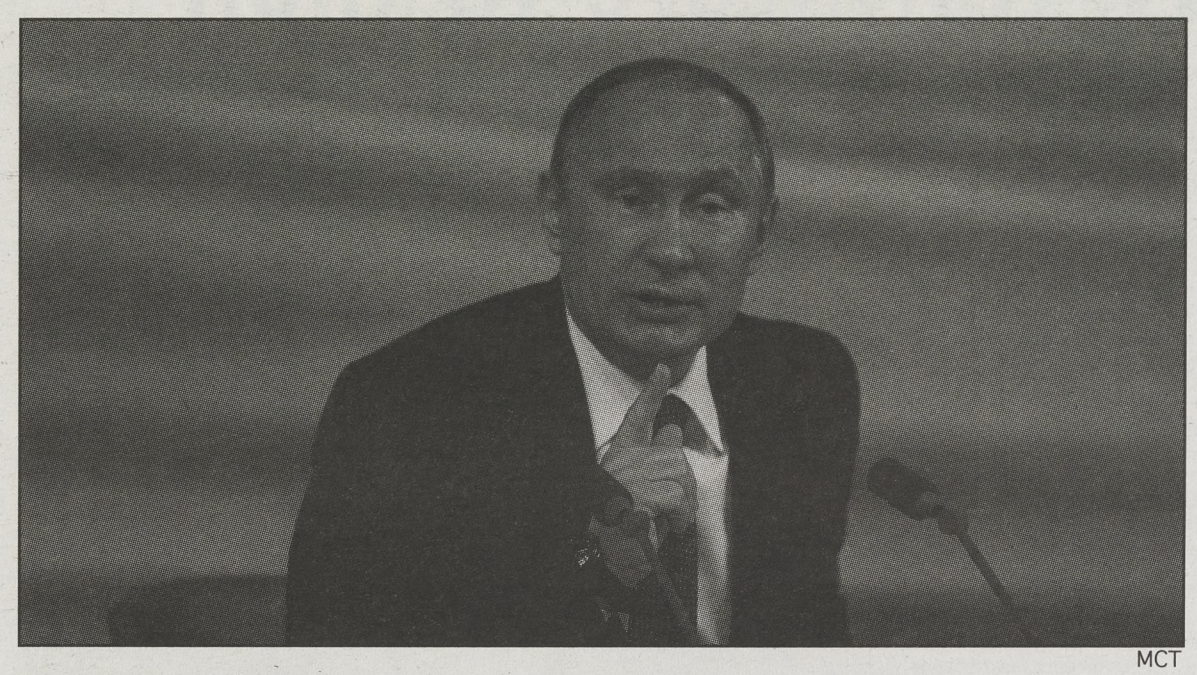
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Widespread international criticism of Putin is unfair

By Shane Newell
City Editor



MCT

Russian President Vladimir Putin

As the situation heats up in Europe over Russia's so-called invasion of Crimea, it is important to realize that the unfolding series of events is entirely fresh and unique.

Crimea, a semi-autonomous region of Ukraine, has made major headlines in recent weeks as the political unrest in Ukraine worsens.

Recently, many world leaders, including President Barack Obama, have criticized Russian President Vladimir Putin for his decision to suport a referendum on March 16 on whether Crimea should leave Ukraine and become part of Russia.

According to the BBC, the majority of Crimea's citizens are ethnic Russians. In addition, Crimea was part of Russia from 1783 to 1954. In theory and reality, Crimea is very Russian-influenced.

After Putin sent troops to partially occupy Crimea, Obama annoucned that the U.S. Treasury Department could issue sanctions to people involved with the increasing Russian presence in Crimea, according to the Washington Post.

Although some may question Putin's clear intentions in Crimea, it is unfair that he is receiving so much international scrutiny.

Instead of being blasted by his detractors, Putin should be applauded for taking a stance and trying to make sure that all ethnic-Russians have the opportunity to be part of his country.

Why exactly did Putin decide to support a referendum that could make Crimea part of Russia?

Surely he knew the political consequences of such an action could be catastrophic.

It's impossible to know exactly what Putin's true intentions are. One can guess, however, that protecting Russia's interest in Crimea, amidst one of the most serious political situations in Europe, was of the utmost importance.

One of Russia's sea bases lies in Crimea at Sevastopol, the BBC said.

If Sevastopol were to fall into pro-Western hands, Putin could potentially lose one of his country's most important ports.

Allowing Crimeans to decide whether or not they should become part of Russia could prevent the country from falling into pro-Western hands, thus benefiting Putin.

Although he will most likely face negative consequences because of his actions in Crimea, Putin has most likely calculated the pros and cons in this situation.

What's the worst that can happen if Crimea becomes part of Russia?

Former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said that, "Putin isn't exactly like Hitler; he's just doing a lot of Hitler-like things." This couldn't be further from the truth.

Some opponents of Putin's new plan have pointed to Hitler's annexation of Austria in 1938 as an indicator of how annexation eventually leads to widespread chaos and war.

According to **History.com**, former Austrian Chancellor Kurt von Schuschnigg asked for a national vote to be held before Germany's annexation.

Before it was held, however, Schuschnigg resigned and Germany forcibly took Austria.

There may be Russian troops, or pro-Russian Crimean troops in Crimea, but nothing has indicated that Putin is willing to march in with guns without holding a democratic vote.

Although it's impossible to predict how the public will vote on Sunday, one can hope that the referendum is fair.

Let's face it, most Americans never knew that Crimea existed before this crisis. Acting as though our country has a vested interest in Crimea is hypocritical.

Applying Western standards to an Eastern situation is foolish.

Income Inequality
Dr. George A. Kuck (galberk@aol.com)

It is now apparent that a large portion of the next political campaign will be focused by democrats on "income inequality". This is class warfare at its worst. I will use two articles to cover this subject. The first covers the moral problem while the second covers what should be done. As a conservative Republican I agree that income inequality is a problem. Since President Obama took office, 85% of the income growth has been for the upper 1% of the income earners, including President Obama. Under President Bush it was 65% and under President Clinton it was 45%. "Quantitative easing" that had the Federal Reserve Banks "buy" (create out of thin air) $85 Billion dollars of the federal debt each month is a major part of the current problem. This money has been used by Democrat aligned banks to increase their profits instead of its intended use of lending to small business and people. Your generation will have to pay for this added $8 Trillion dollar debt.

The income inequality argument rests upon the fiction that relative income mobility has stopped. This is not the case. Relative income mobility is where people are not able to increase their salary enough to move from the lowest rung of the income ladder to a higher rung. With absolute mobility, all living standards can increase while the relative income mobility can remain static. Conservatives wish to raise all income levels (absolute income mobility) and bring everyone up, not bring the highest rung earners down (relative income mobility.) The president's income inequality argument rests on relative income mobility being fixed while the fact is that absolute income mobility is leading to higher standards of living. The lowest rung on the income ladder is increasing their standard of living. In 1979 the mean household income of the bottom 20% was $4,006. By 2012, it was $11,490. That's an increase of 186%. Income inequality is a problem only if the rich are getting richer at the expense of the poor. This is not happening in our country. I am not poorer because Bill Gates has become richer.

When did we become jealous of the successful? Why are we not envious of Beyoncé earning $51M last year but are envious when the head of GM has a total compensation of $5 – $9M a year including stock options. Why is it immoral for the average CEO salary to be $180K when the average salary of a football offensive lineman is $1.2M? It is very difficult to run a successful company and provide the employees with stable jobs. I am not jealous of their compensation and neither should you be – don't covet your neighbor's possessions. Do not focus on salary inequality. Focus on job creation and absolute income mobility. Why not celebrate the fact that you too can become rich? Next month I will cover the causes and statistics of income mobility and indicate how income inequality can be reduced in an ethical fashion.

Is "income inequality" is a simple subject? Is "income inequality' a pure class warfare game? Is the talking point of "Taxing the rich" a moral or practical solution? Why is a growing economy not a zero sum game? Do presidential talking points do justice to those that work and provide jobs for other people? Should we be focusing on income equality, absolute income mobility, or relative income mobility? What should be the mix of our concerns?

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Trends: Normcore fashion

Fashion forecasters pilot a new fashion statement blending muted ensembles, high quality vintage and runway wear.

By Joann Row
Opinions Editor

The cast of "Seinfeld" had their fashion game on point and we're only learning about it now, more than ten years later.

A few weeks ago, NY Magazine introduced "normcore" as "Fashion for those who realize they're one in 7 billion." Now, normcore has become almost inescapable with fashion forecasters publishing the trend in Oyster Mag, Huffington Post and NBC News Style.

The normcore look embodies "general attitude: embracing sameness deliberately as a new way of being cool, rather than striving for 'difference' or 'authenticity,'" according to NY Magazine.

While fashion is known as a visual statement for individuality, normcore translates intentional and unintentional, yet muted looks.

"In fashion, though, this manifests itself in ardently ordinary clothes. Mall clothes. Blank clothes," according to NY Magazine.

It is easy to mistakenly believe that virtually anyone can follow the normcore trend, or is already following it without realizing the fashion statement the clothing makes.

Normcore is not trendsetting in a muted outfit. Rather, it emphasizes "dated" articles of clothing that are transitioned into a modern style.

To achieve the look of normcore, there needs to be a balance of high retail clothing with good quality, vintage clothing. Throwing on a 1980s, bleach-stained baseball cap is not normcore. Whereas wearing an obviously vintage yet stain free NY Yankees hat is an element of normcore.

NY Magazine credits Western Millennials, who are believed to be hitting the reset button to the non-digitized '90s era, and challenging the myth of individuality for the normcore trend. The ideology behind normcore originally came from trend forecasting collective "K-HOLE."

Emily Segal from K-HOLE emphasizes that normcore doesn't embody a single aesthetic or come from abandoning individual style.

"It's not about being simple or forfeiting individuality to become a bland, uniform mass," she said in an article to NY Magazine. "Rather, it's about welcoming the possibility of being recognizable, of looking like other people — and seeing that as an opportunity for connection, instead of as evidence that your identity has dissolved."

K-HOLE calls the normcore trend a "theory" of fashion rather than a "look."

Although normcore is a recent development, the normcore look has circulated the high fashion scene since late 2013.

Marc Jacobs showcased Patagonia-inspired fleeces in his 2013 fall collection; model Edie Campbell wore Celine version Birkenstocks in Vogue Paris and Louis Vuitton cashmere was paired with Adidas in a Self Service magazine shoot.

Sean Monahan of K-HOLE explains that normcore is translated differently depending on the style demographic, i.e.: East Coast versus West Coast.

"At K-HOLE, we think it's all about being situationally appropriate," Monahan said to the Huffington Post. "It depends on who you are, what your scene is."

In that case, normcore in university life can be quite subjective. Is rocking a university sweatshirt normcore? Or is that just a student rolling out of bed and into class?

Some students, including senior kinesiology major Robert Bui, think it's a difficult concept to grasp.

"I've seen [normcore] and all those people wear that stuff in the kinesiology department. I have friends wear stuff like that, so is that normcore? Are Sperrys normcore? Are Clark boots?"

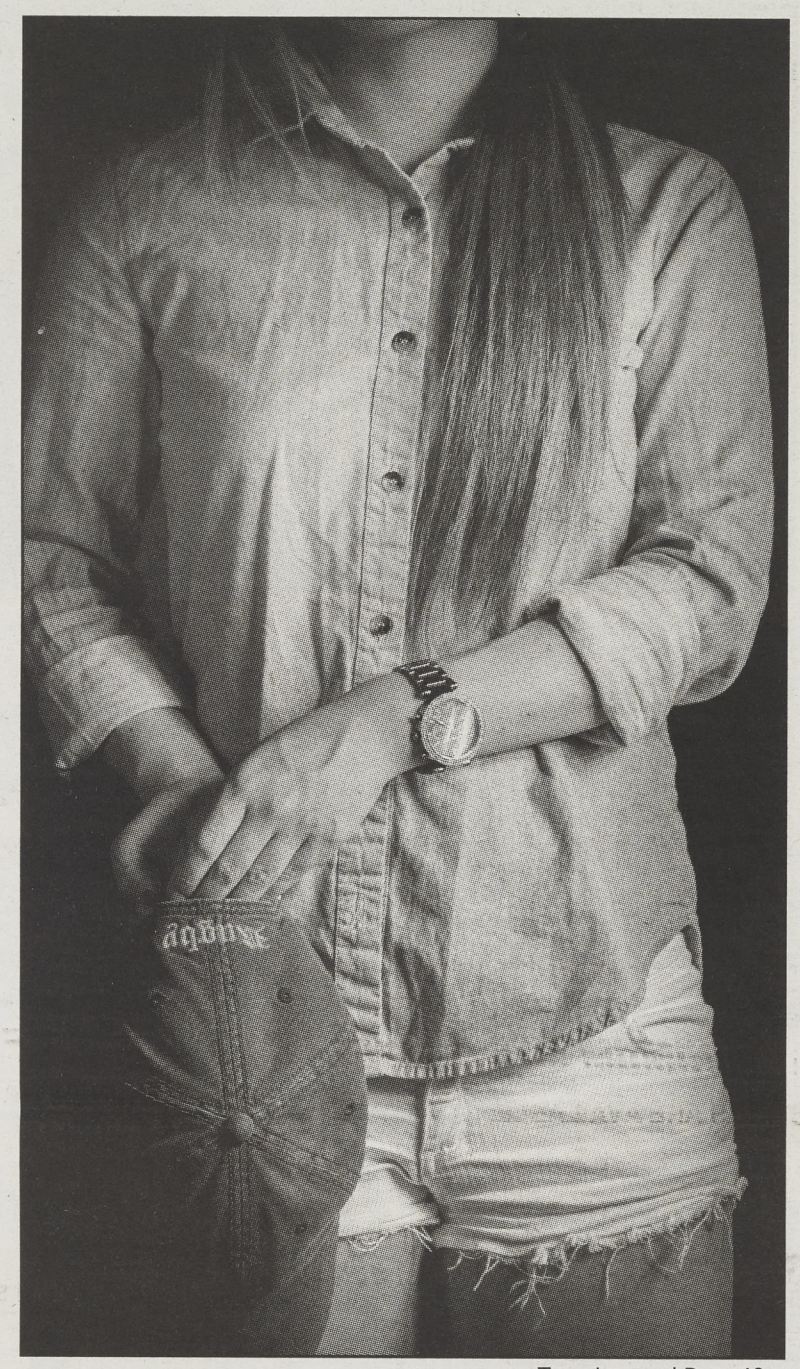
To some, normcore is just a silly excuse to create a trend where trends have never been before.

"[Normcore] signifies nothing," senior biology major Daniel Trinh said. "It's really not saying anything; they're just trying to dress like Seinfeld. It's a passing trend."

Some are grateful for the normcore trend because it is a reason to spend less time on being fashionable.

"I feel like it's more of like a simple kind of fashion, not too much of a fashion statement to stand out," said junior journalism major and normcore fashionista, Jovanna Madrigal. "It requires minimal upkeep; it's simple… doesn't need many items to make a statement. Its just like one statement piece, like a bold accessory."

When it comes down to it, normcore is more than a defining fashion moment but is also the representation of Generation Y's thirst for human connection outside of Internet globalization. Rather than bold being better, this style emphasizes conformity while keeping it simple.



Todd Johnson | Daily 49er

Normcore fashion blends elements of vintage fashion with simple pieces that keep it practical depending on where the day takes you.

Campus Calendar

Week of March 11

The Trials of Muhammad Ali
Tuesday
7 p.m.
Carpenter Performing Arts Center
The Carpenter Center will host six free screenings of the Independent Television Service documentary through its Community Cinema project. The Trials of Muhammad Ali explores the years Ali spent banned from boxing, a time that found him in the crosshairs of conflicts concerning race, religion, and wartime dissent. Admission is free.

Taste of Downtown East Village
Wednesday and Thursday
6 p.m.
First Street, between Linden Avenue and Elm Street
Hungry? The popular Taste of Downtown series is back! Many downtown restaurants will be serving samples of their signature dishes while live music fills the air and artists display their talents. It's sure to be a great time, so mark your calendars! Booklets of 12 tickets sell for $10 at the event.

Annie Moses Band
Friday
7 p.m.
Carpenter Family Terrace – 6200 Atherton St.
Students can come out and enjoy a special outdoor concert on the Carpenter Family Terrace. The show features six siblings, all classically trained musicians, and offers a fresh fusion of sounds, incorporating pop, jazz, bluegrass and classical. The whole family will enjoy the delightful American roots sound of the Annie Moses Band. Admission is free with an online RSVP.



27 LEGAL SERVICES

Legal Concerns? On-Campus consultation with private attorney (562)481-5884 **Michael Lindley** Esq.

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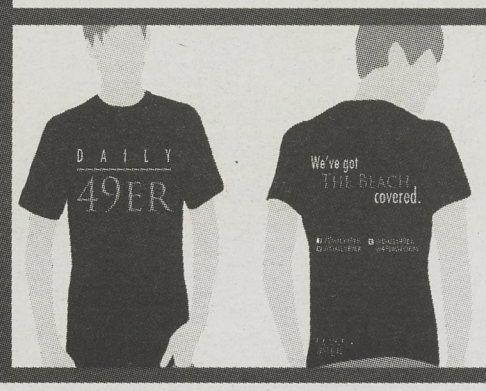
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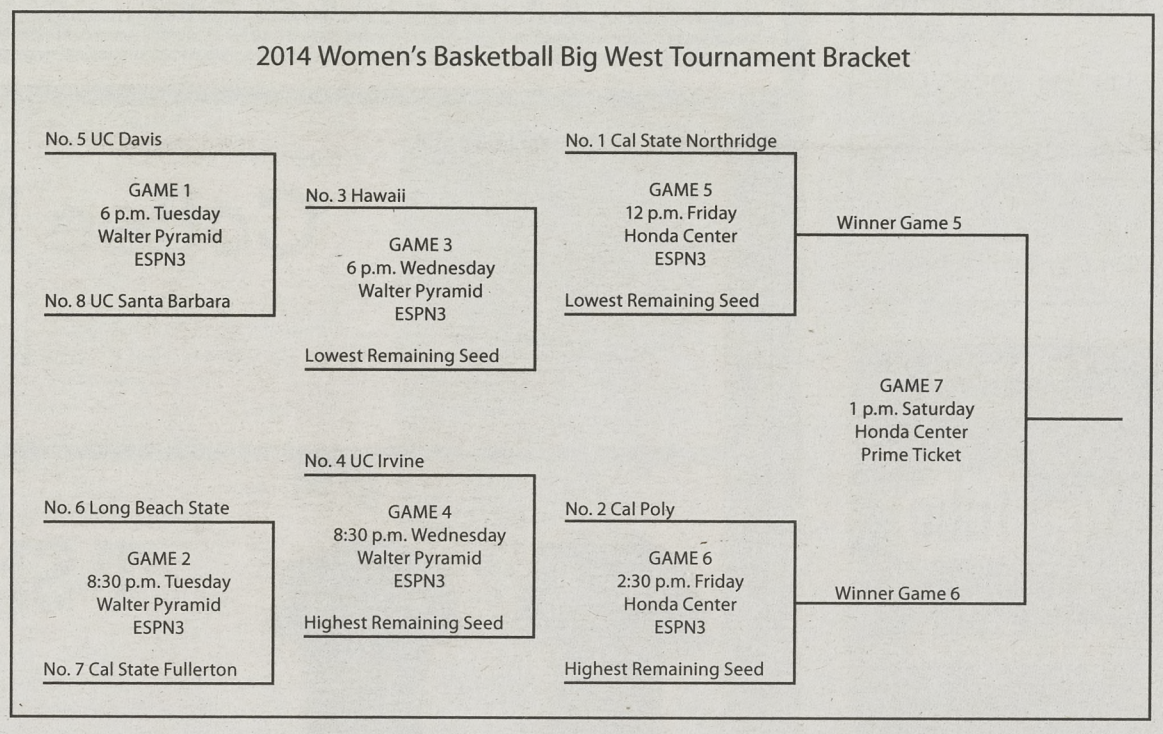
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Women's Basketball

49ers to kick off Big West Tournament tonight

LBSU will face Cal State Fullerton at the Pyramid at 8:30 p.m.

By Michael Morris
Assistant Sports Editor



At a time where it's win or go home in the middle of March, the Long Beach State women's basketball team will begin to write the final chapter of its season against the Fullerton team that it lost to at the same point last season.

The sixth-seeded 49ers (16-14, 8-8 Big West) will remember last years 54-48 loss to the Titans in the first round of the Big West Tournament but won't put much stock into it.

"Fullerton ended our conference season last year," head coach Jody Wynn said. "We'll just come prepared and anything can happen."

Fortunately for the 'Niners, they will have nine players to work with instead of the seven or eight they were forced to play with during the season.

For a team that has played games with four freshman on the court at once, two freshman have filled that void with an aggressiveness on both ends that Wynn and her staff love to see.

Anna Kim, who grew up in Fullerton, has played a key role for the 49ers this year, taking over the starting point guard role midway through the season.

Raven Benton is a freshman who has gone on to lead the team in scoring at 12.3 points a game.

"Kim and Benton are two of our toughest kids and they've certainly shouldered a heavy load," Wynn said. "The two of them have provided a toughness to our team that we really need."

On Monday, their performance this season were recognized as they each earned a spot on the Big West All-Freshman Team. Lauren Spargo and fellow junior Ella Clark earned All-Big West honorable mention recognition as well.

But the individual honors weren't what the team has been practicing for since last fall.

With the 49ers scheduled to face CSUF (12-17, 8-8 Big West) at home, CSUF's rookie head coach Daron Park isn't exactly happy to be returning to the Pyramid.

"It's a huge advantage [for LBSU]." Park said. "It doesn't do me any good to complain about it but this is the task at hand. We made our bed and now we have to play a team in their place."

The last time these teams played just two weeks ago, the Titans used a late run to beat the 49ers at the Walter Pyramid.

Guards Alex Thomas and Chante Miles are among the top backcourt tandems in the league, with both players averaging more than 13 points per game on the season.

"All three of them certainly can and they play with experience," Wynn said. "They're very aggressive at getting to the rim. They got themselves to the free throw line 32 times [last time we played]. We made more field goals than them but the bottom line was they took advantage of their opportunities."

The 49ers are presented with an opportunity of their own in this month of madness that they hope to take advantage of starting Tuesday.

Softball

Ashley Holmes finds her home at Long Beach State

The SoCal native and Tennessee transfer has been tearing it up in her second year at The Beach.

By Oscar Terrones
Staff Writer

For Ashley Holmes, a devastating shoulder injury sustained during her freshman year at the University of Tennessee opened the door for her to come home.

A highly touted player at La Serna High School in nearby Whittier, Calif., Holmes was recruited heavily by several Division I programs. Among the schools that displayed the strongest interest were UNLV, Northwestern and Tennessee.

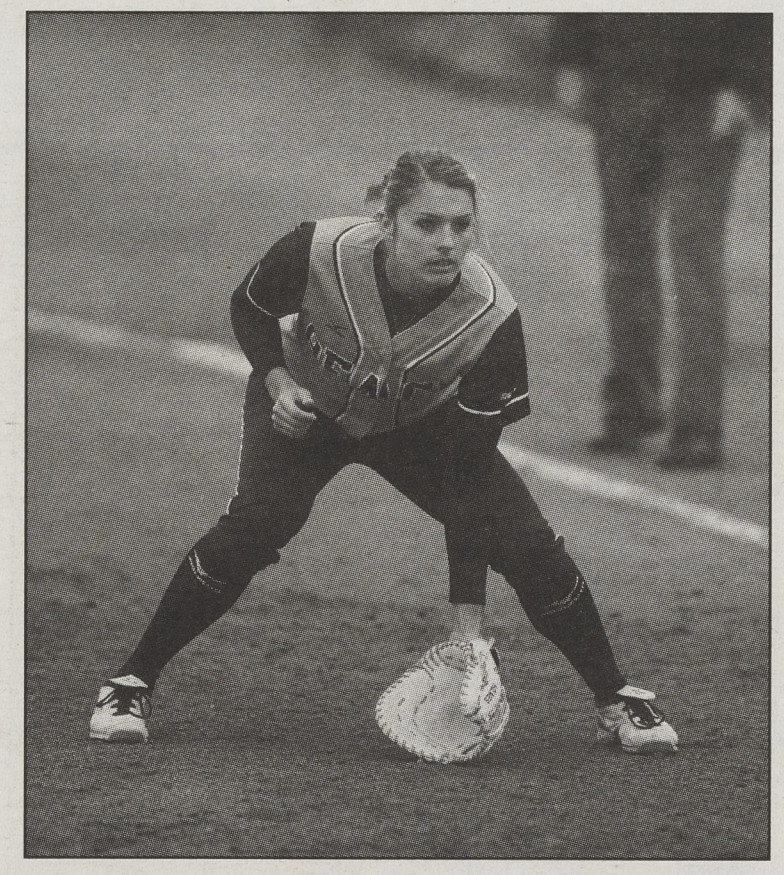
After a verbal commitment her sophomore year didn't pan out, Holmes' options during her senior year became limited. Fortunately for her, the University of Tennessee's recruiting class was still open.

"I love the environment out there," she said. "I love the southern hospitality."

Holmes' career at Tennessee would end just as quickly as it had started. She played in only 11 games before suffering major injuries to her right shoulder, leading to three surgeries that effectively ended her career as a catcher.

"I came back home and I just didn't want to play anymore," she said. "I figured with so many surgeries I wouldn't be able to really throw."

During her recovery, Holmes realized she missed softball too much, and she decided to give it another shot. When the opportunity for her to transfer and play first base at Long Beach State became available, Holmes knew she couldn't pass it up.



Long Beach State Athletics

Ashley Holmes has a .982 fielding percentage at first base but has made her biggest contributions at the plate, where she has a team-leading .441 batting average and seven home runs.

"I love the school," she said. "When I came here it just felt like home to me."

After redshirting her freshman year, Holmes would return the following season to put up mostly pedestrian numbers. She hit .219 with seven home runs in 50 games played. Head coach Kim Sowder, however, always knew Holmes had the talent to be better.

"[Holmes] works extremely hard, and she's very athletic," Sowder said. "It was just a matter of her putting it all together."

Holmes' teammate and best friend, Cya Neal, echoed her coach's praise for Ashley.

"She's very dedicated to what she does, on and off the field," Neal said. "She's a very smart girl, and she knows what she wants and goes after it."

Now a junior, Holmes has put things together in a big way this season. She leads the 49ers in most major offensive categories, including home runs, batting average and on-base percentage. Sowder said she believes that more playing time and better preparation have led to Holmes' tremendous start.

Already a Big West Player of the Week winner, Holmes thanks improved pitch selection and better mechanics for her breakout year, saying that one of the problems she had last year was not "staying through the ball".

"I was pulling off a lot, and it just wasn't working, " she said. "A lot of people have contributed to my [improvement], like my dad. It's just helpful when a lot of people offer advice and you can just hone in on certain aspects that you think will work."

While leading a potent 49ers offense has taken up a lot of her time, Holmes always makes sure she's available for her family. A smile immediately overtakes her face when she mentions her parents and three siblings: Brandon, Christopher and Nicole.

"They each have a kid, so it's nice being an aunt," she said.

A self-described nerd, Holmes says she considers herself a very low-key person.

"I like staying in for movie nights or going to the beach and hanging out," she said.

While she's adjusted well to playing a new position, Holmes says she still misses catching.

"I caught since I was ten, so having that taken from you is sad," she said. "I like first base, but it helps when you have gear. If you get hit by a ball it doesn't hurt so bad."

BIG WEST STANDINGS

MEN'S BASKETBALL

	CONF.	OVR.
UC Irvine	13-3	22-10
UC Santa Barbara	12-4	21-8
LONG BEACH STATE	10-6	14-16
Hawaii	9-7	20-10
Cal State Northridge	7-9	15-17
Cal State Fullerton	6-10	11-19
Cal Poly	6-10	10-19
UC Riverside	5-11	10-20
UC Davis	4-12	9-22

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

	CONF.	OVR.
Cal State Northridge	12-4	16-14
Cal Poly	11-5	17-12
Hawaii	10-6	16-12
UC Irvine	9-7	16-14
UC Davis	9-7	14-15
LONG BEACH STATE	8-8	16-14
Cal State Fullerton	8-8	12-17
UC Santa Barbara	3-13	8-21
UC Riverside	2-14	6-23

BASEBALL

	CONF.	OVR.
UC Santa Barbara	0-0	10-2
Cal Poly	0-0	11-3
UC Irvine	0-0	11-3
Cal State Fullerton	0-0	8-5
LONG BEACH STATE	0-0	8-7
UC Riverside	0-0	8-8
UC Davis	0-0	7-8
Hawaii	0-0	7-9
Cal State Northridge	0-0	6-10

SOFTBALL

	CONF.	OVR.
UC Santa Barbara	0-0	15-5
LONG BEACH STATE	0-0	16-7
Cal State Fullerton	0-0	15-10
Cal Poly	0-0	13-9
Cal State Northridge	0-0	13-9
Hawaii	0-0	11-10
UC Riverside	0-0	13-12
UC Davis	0-0	9-17

WOMEN'S TENNIS

	CONF.	OVR.
LONG BEACH STATE	4-0	9-1
UC Irvine	4-0	6-5
Hawaii	2-1	5-7
UC Santa Barbara	2-1	3-10
Cal State Northridge	2-2	5-4
UC Davis	2-2	6-6
Cal Poly	0-3	3-6
UC Riverside	0-3	0-13
Cal State Fullerton	0-4	3-8

WOMEN'S WATER POLO

	CONF.	OVR.
Cal State Northridge	0-0	13-5
UC Irvine	0-0	15-6
LONG BEACH STATE	0-0	14-6
Hawaii	0-0	11-5
UC Davis	0-0	11-10
UC Santa Barbara	0-0	8-11

MPSF STANDINGS

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL

	CONF.	OVR.
Brigham Young	13-2	13-4
LONG BEACH STATE	12-4	13-4
UC Santa Barbara	11-5	12-5
UCLA	11-5	14-6
Pepperdine	10-5	10-5
USC	10-7	11-7
UC Irvine	10-7	13-8
Stanford	9-7	12-7
Hawaii	9-7	11-8
Cal State Northridge	6-10	6-11
Cal Baptist	2-13	4-14
Pacific	1-15	2-17
UC San Diego	0-17	1-18